

ESSB 5305 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Health Care

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/28/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that vaccinations and
4 immunizations are among the most important public health innovations of
5 the last one hundred years. The centers for disease control and
6 prevention placed vaccinations at the top of its list of the ten
7 greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century. In its
8 efforts to improve public health in the world's poorest countries, the
9 Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has identified childhood immunization
10 as a cost-effective method of improving public health and saving the
11 lives of millions of children around the world.

12 Fortunately, in Washington, safe and cost-effective vaccinations
13 against childhood diseases are widely available through both public and
14 private resources. The vaccines that the Washington state department
15 of health provides to meet the requirements for the recommended
16 childhood vaccination schedule through its universal childhood vaccine
17 program are screened for thimerosal and preference is given toward the
18 purchase of thimerosal-free products. The department of health
19 currently provides thimerosal-free products for all routinely
20 recommended childhood vaccines. Regardless of the absence of
21 thimerosal in childhood vaccines in Washington, scientifically
22 reputable organizations such as the centers for disease control and
23 prevention, the national institute of medicine, the American academy of
24 pediatrics, the food and drug administration, and the world health
25 organization have all determined that there is no credible evidence
26 that the use of thimerosal in vaccines poses a threat to the health and
27 safety of children.

28 Notwithstanding these assurances of the safety of the vaccine
29 supply, the legislature finds that where there is public concern over
30 the safety of vaccines, vaccination rates may be reduced to the point

1 that deadly, vaccine-preventable, childhood diseases return. This
2 measure is being enacted to maintain public confidence in vaccine
3 programs, so that the public will continue to seek vaccinations and
4 their health benefits may continue to protect the people of Washington.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.95M RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, a person who is known to be pregnant or
8 who is under three years of age shall not be vaccinated with a mercury-
9 containing vaccine or injected with a mercury-containing product that
10 contains more than 0.5 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose.

11 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, an influenza
12 vaccine may contain up to 1.0 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter
13 dose.

14 (3) The secretary of the department of health may, upon declaration
15 of a public health emergency, suspend the requirements of this section
16 for the duration of the emergency."

EFFECT: Adds legislative findings regarding the benefits of
vaccines and the safety of vaccines.

Removes the prohibition on providing mercury-containing vaccines
that are not licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and extends
the prohibition to vaccines that contain up to 0.5 micrograms of
mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose, except for influenza vaccines which
may contain up to 1.0 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose.

Extends the application date of the prohibition by one year.

--- END ---